

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Torrance, California,
June 5, 1923.

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the City of Torrance was held in the Council Chambers at Torrance, California, June 5, 1923, and was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by President Gilbert. The following Trustees being present: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert. Absent: Stone.

The minutes of the regular meeting of May 15, 1923, were read and approved as read.

The minutes of the special meeting of May 24, 1923, were read and approved as read.

A communication from the local Chamber of Commerce read:
"To Hon. City Trustees:

WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce that the fear of people that drilling will be permitted in the Torrance Tract, and,

WHEREAS such fear is retarding the building of new homes in Torrance,

THEREFORE be it resolved that the City Trustees be requested to enact an Ordinance prohibiting drilling east of Madrid Avenue, north of Plaza del Amo, west of Border Avenue and south of Dominguez Street, or anywhere in the original Torrance Tract, except in the Industrial District."

Signed: Harry F. Gadeky, Sec'y.

Trustee Proctor moved that the Resolution, as above, be accepted and placed on file. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

A second Resolution from the same body follows:
"Gentlemen:

At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce held Tuesday May 29, 1923, the following Resolution was passed:

'Resolved, That the City Trustees be requested to erect signposts on Carson Street and Vista Highlands Tract, and other places in the City where needed, and also to make such changes as are necessary owing to change in names of streets, and to paint the present street signs on the sidewalks with black paint so they could be more easily seen."

Signed: Torrance Chamber of Commerce,
By Harry F. Gadeky, Sec'y."

The above was referred to the proper committee for investigation and recommendations.

The letter from Wm. A. Sumner asking for a copy of the Ordinance requiring producers of oil near the restricted district to share a certain portion of the oil produced with owners within the restricted area, was referred to the City Clerk to answer.

The Union Tool Co. submitted a bid of \$100.00 for a certain franchise on 213th Street sought by them, enclosing certified check for the above amount and another certified check for \$500.00 as an evidence of good faith, and explaining the use to be made of the checks.

On motion by Trustee Proctor, seconded by Trustee Nash, and a majority vote, this matter was taken under advisement until the next meeting.

A letter from the City Clerk of Inglewood regarding alleged discrimination in freight rates against the smaller cities by the railroads, with copy attached of a circular letter to the surrounding municipalities asking concerted action against such discrimination, and asking this City's support of the measure, was read by Clerk Bartlett.

Trustee Nash moved that our support be given--writing to the railroad serving us and sending a copy of same to the Inglewood Council. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Only one bid for the improvement of El Prado park was received in answer to the advertisement for same. Said bid being from Joseph A. Defouri of Redondo Beach, and read as follows:

"My bid for your public work to be done on the Torrance Park, I will furnish all labor and material necessary for grading and sowing with one-half white clover and one-half Kentucky Blue Grass a lawn over the whole of that certain park in El Prado Street in the Torrance Tract, also the furnishing of fifty yards of lawn fertilizer to be plowed under with a good mulching on top after the same has been plowed and rolled, the furnishing and planting of Box Wood shrubbery along both sides of all walks and the care and maintenance of said Park for a period of three months after all planting has been completed, for the total sum of \$1400.00, with 1/3 to be paid after three weeks work."

Trustee Nash moved that the above bid be referred to the Park committee for recommendations at the next meeting. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried.

A petition to amend the Fire District was submitted by Mr. Hemmi and was signed by some 20 or 25 names, the same asking that Block 70 and the eastern half of Blocks 72 and 70 from the so-called Fire District be eliminated, believing it to be for the common good of the City to open that section to the building of homes.

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that the petition be referred to the Ordinance committee for action. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

In the matter of the paving of certain streets north of Plaza del Amo, Mrs. Price stated that she had a majority of the property owners signed up, but that she wished the City to adjourn this meeting to next Tuesday night so as to give her time to see out of town owners in order to give them a fair chance in the proposition as they would have to pay their share, and she did not want to take any unfair advantage of them.

Trustee Proctor moved that this request be granted. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Mr. West of the National Paving Co. said a few words regarding his company's work and methods.

The Street committee was ordered to investigate this proposition and report at the next meeting.

The question of high water rates and poor service was brought up and attention was called to the dried up lawns and the deterrent effects to a growing City from such service.

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that same be referred to the City Attorney for report at the next meeting. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Mr. Overman of the Gardena Chamber of Commerce appeared before the Board in the interest of the paving of Western Ave., stating that they wanted to urge that some action be taken to start the improvement of this street within the limits of the City of Torrance; that if the City of Torrance would get busy and pave, then the County Supervisors would, no doubt,

do the County's part in connecting up the missing links in this street so as to put it clear through to San Pedro.

Mr. Hawkins admitted that he always had something to say when the paying of Western Avenue was mentioned, as it had become a mutual proposition and the Avenue could be used to advantage no matter which direction a motorist was going; that we can get representatives to go before the Board of Supervisors at any time if we know Torrance will do their part.

Mr. Jackman did not know the financial condition of the City of Torrance, but, if the paving could be done by any possible means, he was sure the increased traffic would more than pay for it as a certain percentage of people were bound to stop and look over conditions in this City and some of them were sure to buy; that practically all the Touring car traffic would come down Western Avenue and on through Lomita to San Pedro.

As to ways and means, it was suggested that property owners in this district be approached looking toward an assessment proposition with the City itself doing a share, another way was to try to get an appropriation from the County General Fund, as the County was doing considerable appropriating for work inside of incorporated cities. It was also stated that a new law had been passed whereby counties enjoyed all the rights and privileges of cities in the matter of street improvements, and also that condemnation damages might be offset by the increased valuation to the lot improved.

It was the general opinion that the City of Torrance should take the initiative, after which the County Supervisors might be the more easily influenced to do their share at least.

Mr. Klusman was referred to the Zoning Ordinance on his question as to the why and wherefor of the tentative change of a certain lot on the corner of Arlington and Carson from one zone to another.

Trustee Nash reported that the latest tax remittance from the County was \$7155.44; that collections to date amounted to \$45,863.

Engineer Jessup reported that the Glass factory addition plans had not been completed, but that as soon as same were ready, he would meet Mr. Bisbee and take the matter up further; that the Fire house and Jail and installation of jail cells had been practically completed; that he was glad to report that the Willite Co's plant was on the grounds and that they would be laying hot stuff by next Monday--same being in charge of Chief Engineer Speaker; that the names of streets in the City should be legally adopted thereby making it possible to mention them in deeds, that the Dominguez Land Co. was very much interested in the street naming and that he had gone into the matter to considerable extent with them; that the cost connected with said naming of streets would be from \$100. to \$150., probably not over \$100. with the cooperation of the Dominguez Land Co., and that he would like to have a meeting called for this special purpose.

Trustee Nash moved that the street naming question be referred to the Street, Sewer & Park committee, to the City Engineer and the rest of the Board. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried.

The City Engineer also reported that the Sewer main extension in the northwest part of the City would be completed in a very few days.

Mr. Speaker of the Willite Co. was asked for a few words. He mentioned the fact that his people were putting in a \$40,000. plant and were going to do about \$30,000. worth of work here free of charge as the Company stands back of their paving either now or ten years hence.

Mr. Huntington of the same firm said that he could not amplify to any extent on the talk of Mr. Speaker except that we are sure going to make our work good; that it had been impossible to go

ahead with the work before on account of finances; that they now had large contracts in different localities in this section and everything was going fine; that when you property owners put in any more paving, we ask that you give us consideration as we are proving that our promises are good; that we do not make a lot of glittering promises beforehand but you can depend on us at the end; that it is a legal impossibility to put up a bond for the maintenance of any pavement unless the bids specifically mention a maintenance fund for that purpose and the City Trustees would have to act as guardians for the people; that we want to keep our paving plant going and we feel that we shall be able to do so since proving our integrity and giving you a good street in spite of the fact the contractor has already gone; that it is our intention to spend every nickel we can for labor, supplies, etc. right here in your City.

Mr. Speaker stated that his Chief told him that he did not know what was necessary down here, but whether \$20,000. or \$30,000. was needed, a good street was to be provided.

Clerk Bartlett read the following report:

"I Beg to report that the work of constructing the City Fire house and Jail, by the Brewer Construction Co., has been completed, with the exception of a few minor matters that will be taken care of before final payment is made.

The Brewer Construction Co. has contracted to do the work for the sum of \$6915.00, of which 85% is due upon acceptance-

the same being	\$5877.75
Less Statement No. 3	4250.00
Balance payable	1627.75

Extras as follows have been allowed:

For base board of wood stone	39.20
4 wire glass windows to jail room	46.73
Total payable	\$1713.68

Trustee Nash moved that the above amount, \$1713.68, be paid as recommended. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

Clerk Bartlett read the following report:

"Regarding the claim of Mr. Reynolds for damages to his Ford due to collision with the chain across the street at the school house I must report that where there is so much evidence to show that negligence existed on the part of the party driving the Ford the liability of the City for damages has not been established to my satisfaction.

I would advise that no settlement be offered and that MR. Reynolds be requested to submit his claim to the courts. I do not feel that the City would be justified in making a payment of this claim until it is determined by evidence taken under oath that liability rests with the City, and such can best be done in court, before an impartial judge.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: Perry G. Briney,
City Attorney."

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that the bill for repairs on this Ford be returned to Mr. Reynolds, together with a copy of this report as the Council's reply to same. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

The Recorder's report of \$146.50 for the month of May on fines was accepted and placed on file on motion by Trustee Proctor, seconded by Trustee Fitzhugh, and a majority vote.

Building permits for the month of May amounted to \$251,175. as against \$32,550. for the month of May last year.

Fire Chief Hannebrink reported that he was sadly in need of 500 feet of heavy duty Fire hose, as the old hose would not stand the pressure of the new Fire Engine.

Trustee Proctor moved that the Clerk be instructed to advertise for bids, sealed, for 500 feet of heavy duty Fire hose, said bids to be opened at 8:15 P.M. June 19, 1923. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

City Clerk Bartlett read:

ORDINANCE NO. 57

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO THE SANTA FE AND LOS ANGELES HARBOR RAILROAD CO., A CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNEES, FOR THE TERM OF TWENTY-ONE (21) YEARS FROM THE 10TH DAY OF JULY, 1923, THE FRANCHISE, RIGHT, PERMISSION AND PRIVILEGE TO LAY, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE A STANDARD GAGE RAILROAD ACROSS CERTAIN STREETS IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that Ordinance No. 57 be adopted as read for its final reading, and the same filed in the office of the City Clerk. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

Clerk Bartlett read:

ORDINANCE NO. 58

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE
REGULATING THE KEEPING OF BEES

Trustee Proctor moved that Ordinance No. 58 be approved as read for its first reading. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Clerk Bartlett read:

ORDINANCE NO. 59

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE
NO. 50 OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that Ordinance No. 59 be approved as read for its first reading. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Clerk Bartlett read:

ORDINANCE NO. 60

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 10
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

Trustee Proctor moved that Ordinance No. 60 be approved as read for its first reading. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION NO. 118

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE
IMPROVEMENT OF AMAPOLA AVENUE AND INTERSECTING
STREETS BETWEEN MADRID AND COTA AVENUES

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that Resolution No. 118 be adopted as read and the same filed in the office of the City Clerk. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.

NOES; Trustees: None.

ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

Clerk Bartlett read:

RESOLUTION OF INTENTION NO. 119

A RESOLUTION OF INTENTION TO IMPROVE AMAPOLA
AVENUE AND INTERSECTING STREETS BETWEEN
MADRID AVENUE AND COTA AVENUE

Trustee Fitzhugh moved that Resolution No. 119 be adopted as read and the same filed in the office of the City Clerk. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

On finding that no definite reply had been received from the P. E. Ry. Co. regarding the improvement of their right of way on Cabrillo Avenue, Trustee Fitzhugh moved that the City Engineer be instructed to follow up this matter and report at the next meeting. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried.

On motion by Trustee Proctor, seconded by Trustee Nash, and a majority vote, the hearing on Arlington Avenue re the issuing of bonds was postponed until the first regular meeting in July.

President Gilbert called the attention of the Board to the very nominal rental that was being paid for the Clerk's office and the Council Chambers, and pointing out that the space and location was really worth a great deal more; that, although no ousting proceedings were contemplated to his knowledge, he would suggest that, if the Board could see its way clear, the rental be voluntarily increased substantially.

Trustee Proctor moved that the City office and Council Chamber rent be raised to \$50.00 per month beginning June 1st, 1923, and that the Chamber of Commerce be asked to pay \$20.00 per month to the City for their share of the rent. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

Trustee Nash moved that a private line telephone be installed in the City Clerk's office and one in the Fire house. Trustee Proctor seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

In the matter of operating the siren and night lights on the Firehouse through the telephone exchange, Trustee Proctor moved that the President of the Board be delegated to look after same. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Clerk Bartlett suggested that if lights were used on the Firehouse, some system be worked out so that a person could tell in what part of the City the fire was.

Trustee Nash moved that all bills, properly audited, be paid. Trustee Fitzhugh seconded the motion which was duly carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES; Trustees: Fitzhugh, Nash, Proctor and Gilbert.
NOES; Trustees: None.
ABSENT; Trustee Stone.

Trustee Proctor moved that the meeting adjourn until Tuesday, June 12, 1923 at 8:00 P.M. Trustee Nash seconded the motion which was duly carried.

Albert H. Bant
City Clerk of the City of Torrance

Approved:

W. H. Gilber
President of the Board of Trustees
of the City of Torrance.